

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Amended claim 1 recites that a second network interconnect device is to couple to a first interconnect device (that in turn is to couple to a network) and a data terminal equipment (DTE) device. Still further, amended claim 1 recites that a signal received from the first network interconnect device is operable to control a state of a physical layer of the DTE device. The claim also recites that this DTE device is a backup device to be connected/disconnected from a network without manual intervention.

The cited art fails to teach or suggest at least this subject matter of claim 1. First as to the primary reference, Campana simply teaches the presence of master and slave network devices: there is no teaching or suggestion of further connection to a third device such as the DTE device that is to have its physical layer controlled. Of course, the secondary reference Dea also fails in this regard, as it too simply teaches the connection of two devices. Dea further fails to teach or suggest that a signal received from a first network interconnect device at a second network interconnect device is operative to control a physical layer state of yet a third device. Instead, in Dea it is simply taught that when a network interface controller in a power down state receives a link beat pulse packet, the network interface controller simply handles that pulse while the system remains in a low power state. Dea, col. 7, lns. 35-50. Thus neither reference anywhere teaches or suggests that a DTE device can be connected/disconnected without manual intervention via control of a state of its physical layer. As such, claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom are patentable over the cited art, as the additional secondary reference Prorock fails to address any of this missing subject matter.

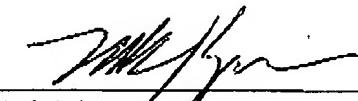
Independent claim 9 is patentable for at least similar reasons, as the art fails to teach or suggest the transmission of a predetermined signal from a master network interconnect device to a slave network interconnect device causes that slave device to transmit a signal to control a physical layer state of a network device coupled to the slave device. As such, claim 9 and the claims depending therefrom are patentable over the cited art. Independent claim 19 and its dependent claims are patentable for at least similar reasons as described for claims 1 and 9. Still further as to claim 19, the art fails to teach or suggest that two different network devices can be connected/disconnected from a network by transmission of a single signal from a first hub.

New dependent claims 31-33 are patentable at least for the same reason as the independent claim from which they depend.

In view of these remarks, the application is now in condition for allowance and the Examiner's prompt action in accordance therewith is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 11/13/08



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